

The Gospel according to ST. JOHN the 21st Chapter.
Sing.
JOHN 21:1-19

(do fishing real motions)

“I’M GOIN FISHIN”

Well In our Gospel reading today Simon Peter declares. “I’m Goin Fishin.” There are 19 verses in our reading, but every time I read them, I keep coming back to that statement. “I’m Goin Fishin”. Plus I received a sign.

I was Driving past DunkelBergers the day I started thinking about preparing the sermon and saw a sign in the front window that said. “I’m Goin fishing”

(Sometimes a sign is actually a sign). I knew then that the 3rd verse of our Gospel reading today was the operative text that would propel this sermon.

Saying the phrase out loud reminds me of that ad campaign years ago. I’m goin to **DISNEYLAND**. Do you remember that one. There was a song that followed too at the time. “I’m goin to DISNEYLAND”

When Pastor Scott asked me to deliver the sermon I had a nervous moment when I wanted to say . I just can’t deal.

I’m Goin to Disney. I don’t know if I can stay here and handle that responsibility.

We don’t have the Audio on Simon Peter, **we don’t have his sound bite** so Let us try to imagine how Simon Peter said I’m Goin Fishing. I can hear his voice in so many different tonalities with different inflections. Biblical scholars and pastors for years have speculated on exactly what was behind his decision. Taken out of context it doesn’t seem like much of a big deal, but when we take into account that this is the 21st chapter of Johns Gospel and these are the same men that traveled with Jesus Throughout the previous chapters. These are The same Disciples who learned to walk and to pray with him and to whom Jesus had reappeared only a chapter earlier. Jesus had prepared Simon Peter and the Disciples to go into the world as witnesses NOT INTO THE BOAT AS antisocials.

In Mathews Gospel the 4th chapter the 19th verse we see Jesus telling the Disciples “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men” “FOLLOW ME” he said.

SO WHAT HAPPENED. After all that. He says., “ **I’m goin Fishin” not such a big deal out of context but NOW in context, IN SEQUENCE**, having been through so much with Jesus, the statement really causes us to think more deeply about this.*

Has Simon Peter forgotten everything. Is he hungry, *depressed or overwhelmed. Maybe he just can’t deal *There was no DISNEYLAND yet.* and he wants to retreat to his **HAPPY** safe place **Fishing**. Something he knows well. He was there earlier though. Remember this. (Like a flashback) In **Lukes Gospel the 5th chapter** with Jesus again fishing all night. Simon said then **“Master we have worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything”**. Didn’t Simon Peter learn **then** that: in Obedience to Christ.

FOLLOWING CHRIST, when he let down the nets the way Jesus instructed him, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. **How often do we forget?** How often do we slip back into our old ways. Our familiar ways When we know better. Or, We rush ahead in our own strength like children.

How many times **I was excited** about a new color to paint a room in the house My Wife and I loved to decorate together, but I would get ahead of my self. I would start painting before I put down the drop cloth. And each time I was somehow sorry. We wanted to change the wall color, not the floor color.

Another cart before the horse scene that replays from my earlier days brings me to the refrigerator. I would often try to pull the orange juice out of the refrigerator before moving the milk out of the way. But we don't cry over spilt milk even when it happens again and again. You know in your mind, that we should not put the carton before the horse.

Simon Peter and the disciples walked and prayed with Jesus **in the flesh** and still They repeated the same mistakes again and again, But we share the same God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, Who is merciful and **FORGIVING**. And for more than this with us and the Disciples who knew him well.

Like us, Peter and the disciples repeatedly made mistakes, even said or did inappropriate things.

Peter Denied him 3 times earlier and here, Christ gave him the opportunity to be forgiven 3 times To release him from his own unforgiveness of himself as well.

He and the Disciples are Perfectly and **sequentially** forgiven and **WE ALSO ARE FORGIVEN**.

FEEL BETTER.

And If you know enough to move something out of the refrigerator to get to whats behind it, this is your chance to feel a little better about yourselves. Especially when I tell you that even into my married years, when It came to refrigerators, orange juice and milk I did not really learn the lesson, I was just managing symptoms.

It seems like such a simple concept. Not such a big deal to learn OUT OF context. But you know full well that **Order, and SEQUENCE** are so very important.

IT wasn't until I was In the recording studio that this lesson really Found me.

In the studio, our process is such that we layer sounds and build a song from the ground up. And often musicians would come to me with completed vocals and a guitar part and then want to add drums and rhythm tracks to make it sound professional.

Well a **GOOD CARPENTER** knows that Painting, crown molding and the kitchen hardware should not be installed before the Foundation is prepared, 2by4s and a structure are completed. **Building a song in the studio is a lot like building a home** and you know that to have well built home, you must first have a **strong foundation**. When recording music it is the same way. We need to start with a strong tempo and a solid pulse that is established by the rhythm section. Everything else is sinking sand without it. The music gets sloppy, loosens up and falls apart when it doesn't have a strong foundation. So **adding the foundation last does not bring right results**. When recording a song Like building a house we must put first things first. **We start with the foundation.**

. See it doesn't matter if we are recording a song, building a house, reaching for something in the back of our minds, or the back of our refrigerator, Goin to DISNEYLAND or just GOIN FISHING.

FOUNDATION FIRST.

. GOD Is our Solid Rock, our Foundation.

There is so much to learn here in our Gospel reading today, We could have had a 90 minute sermon, but for today.

Let us continue to put God FIRST. There is great IMPORTANTance to **Proper Sequence**

When we choose to follow Jesus Christ our lord and savior Obedient to his will even before our plans **We prosper abundantly**. When we follow, we go after not before. Phillipians 4:13 = "**I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me**".

All things Yes. But only after we go through Christ. First things First. Christ first then strength then all things.

CLOSING STATEMENT

We can Fish all night on the left side of the boat in our own strength and bring back nothing, or we can first listen to the word of God and then cast our nets on the Right side and PROSPER so abundantly that we haul in more than we could have dreamed of. In His time, In his order, In his Sequence, His will be done.

Even as we proclaim our fait:

CHRIST HAS DIED CHRIST HAS RIZEN CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.

Amen